COLLECTOR'S EDITION

CLASSIC HORROR TALES

NOV 1977

$1.50

the SHOCK of bloody terror in the

VAMPIRE

the rotting thing was a

MONSTER

IT ROSE FROM THE SLIME BELOW

DEADMAN'S HAND

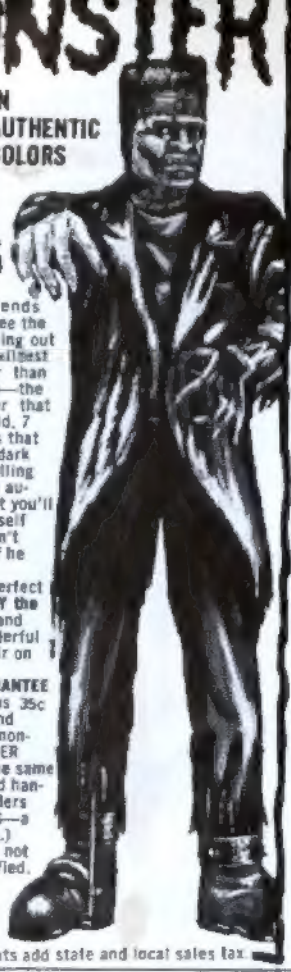
PLUS THE SUPERNATURAL

MONSTER

7 FEET TALL / IN AUTHENTIC COLORS

GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY **$1.25**



Imagine your friends shock when they see the **"MONSTER"** reaching out —sinister as the wildest nightmare. Bigger than life—Frankenstein—the man-made monster that terrorized the world. 7 feet tall, with eyes that glow eerily in the dark for a special thrilling chill. So lifelike in authentic colors, that you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers!

There is also his perfect companion—**BONEY the SKELETON**—stark and scary—just a wonderful pair to set your hair on end.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Just send $1.25 plus 35c to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. ORDER TWO AND SAVE. (The same 35c for postage and handling applies to orders for TWO MONSTERS—a total of 2 for $2.85.) Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.

HONOR HOUSE
DEPT. 472MR67
LYNBROOK, N. Y. 11563

NY State residents add state and local sales tax

8 MM MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR

COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE

ONLY **$9.98**

• COMPLETE WITH SCREEN

FEATURES

- Sturdy construction
- Precision ground and polished lenses
- Projects both color and black & white 8 MM movie film
- Complete with demountable theatre screen

Here is a precision - engineered projector sturdily built for long use yet reasonably priced so that everyone can enjoy the thrills of home movies or standard 8mm commercial films. The double lens system and smooth operation give amazing performance. Comes complete with carrying case and its own portable silvery viewing screen. Battery operated to eliminate electric outlets or a clumsy cord. This quick focusing automatic projector shows 8mm color or black & white film. Stop to enjoy a particular frame or speed up the action for special enjoyment. (Batteries not included.)

FREE

NEW THRILLING SENSATION!

ADDS 3-D STEREO EFFECT

Makes People Look So Full and Real, You'll Feel You Can Reach Out and Touch Them

Just put on the "Miracle Specs" and you achieve a thrilling new experience. You see — not the old flat pictures you've seen for years — but life-like round images so real you "know" you could reach out to touch and feel them. One pair comes with each projector. Additional pairs are $2.98 each.

OUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

We are so sure that you will be delighted with this versatile Projector that we invite you to try it for 10 days and then, if you don't agree that is a wonderful buy, return it to us and we'll refund the purchase price - with no questions asked. **Don't Delay - Send your Order Now!**

10 DAY TRIAL FREE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS Dept. 472MP67
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the 8mm Portable Projector together with one set of Stereo Specs. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return it after 10 days trial for refund of purchase price.

☐ I enclose $9.98 (please add 98c shipping charges).

☐ Send COD. I enclose $1 deposit and will pay the postman balance plus postage and COD handling charges on delivery.

NAME

ADDRESS ZIP

☐ Send me Stereo Specs @ $2.98 each.

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- 9" Overall Length
- 5" When Closed
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- Sharp and Tough
- Stainless Steel Blade

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Flips open instantly and locks automatically to prevent accidental closing. Razor sharp tough stainless steel blade for reliable use and hard, long service. Money back in 5 days if not satisfied. Send $2.75 plus 35c to cover postage and handling

ALLEY SPORTS MO Div.

Dept. 472ST67
35 Wilbur Street, Lynbrook, N. Y. 11563

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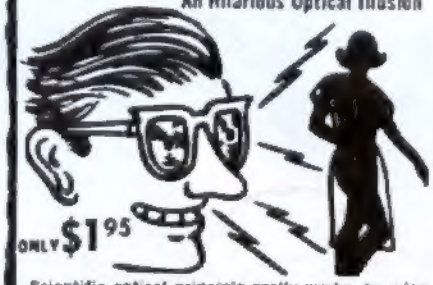
X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion



ONLY **$1.95**

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine — you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. only $1.95 plus 35¢ shipping charges Money Back Guarantee

HONOR HOUSE DEPT. 472XN67 LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563

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BLANK "DETECTIVE" REVOLVER

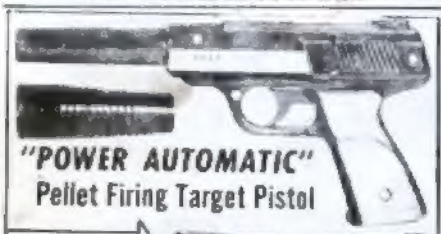
ONLY **$2.98**

- No permit required
- Purchaser must be over 21
- Not sold in NY or Calif.

This 8 shot revolver looks and feels like a real detective undercover gun. Fires loud 4.5 mm blanks as fast as you can pull the trigger - perfect for sports, stage, dog training, etc. Swingout cylinder ejects empties and reloads like the real thing. Only $2.98 plus 50¢ for postage and handling. Add $1. for 80 rounds of ammo; $1. for genuine leather holster. Money back guarantee if not satisfied. (State age when ordering.)

Honor House Dept. 472DN67 Lynbrook, NY 11563

"POWER AUTOMATIC" Pellet Firing Target Pistol



and SILENCER

FREE 50 Reusable 22 Cal. Pellets

only **$1.98**

Rapid firing 22 cal. fully 9 inches long with the look and feel of an "undercover" automatic. Snap the "silencer" on or remove it for fast combat type target practice. FREE 50 reusable 22 cal. pellets and supply of targets. Money back guarantee if not satisfied. Just send $1.98 plus 50c for postage and handling. NY State residents state age. Not sold in NY City.

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20 COURSE HOME STUDY PROGRAM

KARATE JIU-JITSU

JUDO, BOXING, SAVATE, Isometric Muscle Building, Endurance, Stunts, etc.

Only **$1.00**

Here is what you get!

- 20 best KARATE Blows and Chops
- SAVATE French foot fighting
- Nerve center anatomy chart
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- Isometric muscle building course
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Satisfaction guaranteed or money back. Send just $1.00 plus 35c for postage and handling to:

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PELLET FIRING 22 CAL. SNUB-NOSED REVOLVER

FREE: Targets and 50 reuseable pellets

This hard hitting target pistol looks and feels like the famous snub nosed revolver in use by most detectives. The cylinder swings out to take eight 22 caliber pellets and each revolver comes with its own FREE supply of targets and 50 rounds of reuseable pellets. Only $3.95 plus 50¢ for postage and handling. Your money promptly refunded if you're not completely satisfied. Not sold in New York City.

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HORROR TALES

NOV. 1977 VOL. 8 NO. 5

THE SKIN-RIPPERS 4
A nightmare in which tiny sharp clawed creepy things rip the flesh from a honeymooning couple.

FROM THE GRAVE BELOW 10
A gruesome smelly corpse covered with slime crawls from the open grave and embraces Satan in a pact for vengeance.

THE VAMPIRE 15
Terror stalks a travelling circus as blood drinking creatures battle to death.

DEADMAN'S DANCE 22
The fetid stench of an open grave choked John Drune as he danced his last dance with death.

SATAN'S CAT 28
A weird tale of a thing with sharp fangs and claws who carries out the devil's work in chronological order.

THE MONSTER 32
Cyril was a chemist who dabbled with the unknown until it finally killed him.

DEADMAN'S HAND 38
The gambling murderers shook with fear when the clammy hands of their victim claimed the deadman's hand.

HEADS OF HORROR 44
Vengeance smiles a bitter grin when Mark Cummins falls into his well baited trap and becomes his own victim.

IN THE SLIME BELOW 52
A Scotland Yard Inspector about to retire ends his career in a most bloody good show.

THE SUPERNATURAL 57
A bizarre and terror laden tale of strange haunts that ends with a deadly twist.

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THE SKIN-RIPPERS

LOVE, THEY SAY, IS LIKE DYING A LITTLE! SO IF TWO LOVERS MUST DIE, WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO DIE TOGETHER, HAND IN HAND? NOT IN THEIR WILDEST DREAMS COULD THE TWO PEOPLE OF OUR STORY HAVE FORSEEN THE HORRORS THAT LAY IN WAIT FOR THEM IN A LONELY PLACE! THEY SHARED A NIGHTMARE IN WHICH CREATURES FROM HADES, COVERED WITH THE SLIME OF AGES, CRAWLED OVER THEIR SHRINKING BODIES AND, BIT BY BIT, TORE AWAY THE FLESH UNTIL THE BONES WERE PITILESSLY EXPOSED! IF YOU WANT TO SLEEP WELL TONIGHT- DON'T READ THIS SPINE FREEZING TALE ABOUT **NEW BONES FOR OLD...**

SECONDS OF FRENZY AND PANIC ELAPSE, AND THEN...
KEEP SWIMMING, LORNA! I'VE GOT A RAFT! I'LL HAVE YOU IN A MINUTE!
OH! H-HURRY! W-WATER IS SO C-COLD! I-I CAN'T STAY UP MUCH LONGER!
THEY ARE OVERLOOKED BY RESCUE PARTIES IN THE FOG! AFTER A LONG NIGHT OF COLD AND FEAR, THE SUN FINALLY RISES...
LORNA! LOOK OVER THERE! AN ISLAND! WE'RE IN LUCK, HONEY! THERE MUST BE WATER ON IT, AND SOME KIND OF FOOD!
THANK GOODNESS! MAYBE A SHIP WILL PICK US UP SOON! WE CAN SEND UP A SMOKE SIGNAL!
A MOMENT LATER...
CAREFUL OF THE SURF NOW! DON'T WANT TO BASH OUR HEADS IN ON A ROCK! HMM-SURE LOOKS DESERTED, DOESN'T IT?
Y-YES! BUT AT LEAST IT'S DRY LAND!
LOOK AT THAT FUNNY LOOKING KIND OF SAND DUNES! ALL IN THE SAME SPOT, SORT OF LIKE A VILLAGE!
ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE DUNES, PAT, THEY LOOK SO REGULAR! ALMOST AS IF THEY HAD BEEN BUILT BY HAND! FOR SOME REASON THEY GIVE ME THE CREEPS!
L-LOOK! THOSE STRANGE TRACKS IN THE SAND! CLAW-MARKS! I-I DON'T THINK I LIKE THIS ISLAND!
BUT WE'RE STUCK HERE! LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
LATER, AS PAT GATHERS FIRE-WOOD...
HARDLY HAD THE MACABRE THOUGHT PASSED THROUGH PATS MIND WHEN HE HEARS LORNA SCREAM...
I WOULDN'T LET LORNA KNOW IT, BUT I'M AS JITTERY AS SHE IS ABOUT THIS PLACE! I FEEL AS THOUGH SOMETHING IS WATCHING US ALL THE TIME - SOMETHING HORRIBLE - WAITING!
EEEEEEE PAT! HELP!
GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S LORNA IN TROUBLE!

AS HE REACHES THE BEACH, A FANTASTIC SIGHT GREETS HIM...
GOOD GRIEF! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT CREATURE!
AAAAAAA HELP! THEY'RE AFTER ME! GIANT ANTS! H-HORRIBLE!
AS PAT FIGHTS THE HUGE ANT, IT EMITS A SHRILL SOUND...
YOU'RE A HORROR, BUSTER, BUT I THINK I CAN HANDLE YOU! I'LL SMASH THAT UGLY BODY OF YOURS TO PULP!
SQUERR!! --SQUERR!!
AND WHEN THE CREATURE IS DEAD THEY EXAMINE IT CAREFULLY...
IT'S A GIANT ANT, ALL RIGHT! TWO OR THREE OF THEM COULD KILL A MAN EASILY! AND BY THE WAY IT ATTACKED US, I'M AFRAID IT LIKED... HUMAN FLESH!
DO YOU THINK THERE ARE MORE OF THEM?
SUDDENLY PAT GRABS HER ARM AND BEGINS TO RUN...
PAT! W-WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT'S THE MATTER? IT'S DEAD!
C'MON! I JUST HAD A HORRID THOUGHT! YOU KNOW THOSE DUNES WE SAW? SUPPOSE THE AREN'T DUNES... SUPPOSE THEY'RE ANT HILLS?
BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE!
OH-OH! I WAS RIGHT! SEE THEM POURING OUT OF THOSE HILLS! THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE NOW AND THEY WANT US!
UGH! SO M-MANY OF THEM! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THEY'LL EAT US ALIVE!

I KNOW I'M AFRAID OF WHAT I'M THINKING, BABY! LOOK AT THEM NOW, SWINGING IN A CIRCLE TO SURROUND US! BRRR-REMEMBER STUDYING ANTS IN SCHOOL!
THEY CAN THINK! THEY'LL MAKE A CIRCLE AROUND US AND THEN CLOSE IN GRADUALLY!
SQUEEE-SQURRR-
PAT HAS AN IDEA...
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN KEEP THEM OFF WITH FIRE? M-MAYBE THEY AREN'T AFRAID OF IT!
WE'VE GOT TO GAMBLE! FIRE IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO LIVE! HURRY AND GET MORE WOOD! WE'LL MAKE A CIRCLE OF OUR OWN!
SOON...
NOW WE'LL SEE! GOOD THING THAT I CARRY MATCHES IN A WATERPROOF CASE, OR WE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE THIS CHANCE!
THEY'RE ALL AROUND US! C-CLOSING IN!
THEY CROUCH INSIDE THE RING OF SEARING FLAME...
LOOK, THE FIRE HAS STOPPED THEM! NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS KEEP IT GOING, MAKE IT LARGER!
NIGHT COMES AND STILL THE ANT MONSTERS WAIT PATIENTLY...
THEY WON'T CROSS THE LINE OF FIRE, BUT THEY WON'T GO AWAY EITHER! THEY SEEM TO KNOW WE CAN'T ESCAPE!
THOSE EYES! STARING OUT OF THE DARK! IF MORNING WOULD ONLY COME!

BUT WITH DAWN COMES A NEW DANGER...
I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE WAITING FOR, LORNA, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF WOOD!
THIS IS THE LAST! WE C-CAN'T GET ANY MORE!
THEN...
PAT, A SHIP! OH, WE'RE SAVED! THEY MUST HAVE SEEN THE SMOKE FROM OUR FIRE! WE'VE BEATEN THOSE CREATURES!

BUT NOT YET...
THE SHIP! TURNING AWAY FROM THE ISLAND! THEY EXPECTED US TO BE ON THE BEACH! THEY MUST THINK THE ISLAND IS DESERTED AFTER ALL!
COME ON, THEN! LET'S GET TO THE BEACH!
HURRY! THE SHIP IS STILL IN SIGHT! IF WE CAN GET TO THE BEACH IN TIME, WE CAN GET THEIR ATTENTION!
STICK CLOSE TO ME AND USE THAT CLUB LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES!

BUT INSTANTLY THE FOUL MONSTERS SWARM OVER LORNA...
A'EEEEEE! HELP! TH-THEY'VE GOT ME!
SQURRRRR
THEY PULLED THE CLUB OUT OF MY HAND! EEEEE! MY L-LEGS! BITTEN SO I CAN'T STAND UP! PAT, D-DON'T LEAVE ME TO THEM! OHHHH!
I'M COMING, DARLING!
SQUEE-
SQURRRR-

YEEEEEEE THEY'RE EATING ME ALIVE! D-DON'T LET THEM! AAAAA-
I'M COMING, PAT! KEEP ON FIGHTING!

BUT...
YOU, BLOCKING ME OFF, KEEPING ME FROM GETTING TO LORNA! I'LL CLUB YOUR FIENDISH BRAINS OUT!
SQUEEEE-

FINALLY...
LORNA! GREAT SCOTT- WHERE IS SHE? N-NO! NOT UNDER THAT SQUIRMING HEAP! PLEASE DON'T LET LORNA BE IN THERE! PLEASE!

AND...
GAAA! IT- IT IS! ALL THAT'S LEFT OF MY W-WIFE! THOSE BRUTES PICKED HER BONES CLEAN IN A MINUTE!

NO LONGER DOES PAT TRY TO ESCAPE! HE TURNS, AND CLUB READY, FACES THE BLACK HORDE THAT CREEPS TOWARD HIM...
C'MON, YOU MURDERING CREATURES! YOU'LL GET ME, SURE, BUT I'LL MAKE JELLY OUT OF SOME OF YOU FIRST!

IT DID NOT LAST VERY LONG! THE CREW OF THE DISTANT SHIP COULD NOT HEAR HIS CRIES AS THE LIVING FLESH WAS STRIPPED FROM HIS BONES! BUT IN THE END, BY SOME STRANGE CHANCE, THE ANTS DRAGGED THE SKELETONS TOGETHER AND LEFT THEM IN DEATH AS THEY HAD BEEN IN LIFE!
PERHAPS THEY KNEW!
THE END

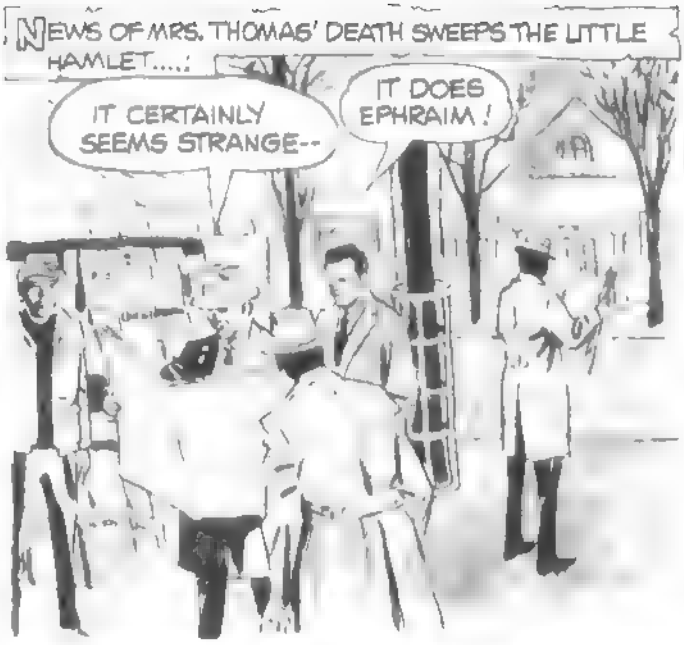
A NEEDLE AND THREAD SEEM HARMLESS ENOUGH. BUT THEY CAN BECOME IMPLEMENTS OF HORROR AS CALEB WILKS FOUND OUT!

FROM THE GRAVE BELOW

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO, CALEB WILKS AND JEREMIAH BRANT WERE PARTNERS IN A SMALL TAILOR-SHOP... ***PARTNERS***...BUT NEVER ***FRIENDS!***

AND LATE THAT NIGHT, THE FIENDISH TAILOR BURIES HIS MURDERED PARTNER BEHIND THEIR TAILOR SHOP...!
MAY YOU REST IN PEACE, JEREMIAH! HEE-HEE...!
AFTER COMPLETING HIS NEFARIOUS WORK, CALEB RETURNS TO THE SHOP AND WORKS FAR INTO THE NIGHT...
ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT! I'LL HAVE MORE WORK FROM NOW ON...
SLEEP WELL JEREMIAH! HEE-HEE
"...SLEEP WELL, JEREMIAH!"....IF CALEB HAD ONLY KNOWN THAT HIS DEAD, DEPARTED PARTNER WASN'T SLEEPING AT ALL!
SEWING TO BE DONE, AND MUCH OF IT MINE! I SHALL DO IT CALEB! YOU SHALL SEE...! HA-HA-HAA!
THE NEXT MORNING....
STRANGE...! I MUST HAVE DONE THEM AND FORGOTTEN...YES, THAT'S IT!
IS MY COAT READY, MR. WILKS?
YES, MRS. THOMAS! I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE!
MY....HOW NICE! WHA....! THE COAT...! IT'S ALIVE! IT'S STRANGLING ME....!
CALEB WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOCKED HAD HE WITNESSED THE HORRIBLE SCENE THAT TRANSPIRED AT THE THOMAS HOME. SHOCKED BUT NO MORE SO THAN THE DOOMED WOMAN....!!

AAAGGHHR... THE COAT!! AAIEE!


NEWS OF MRS. THOMAS' DEATH SWEEPS THE LITTLE HAMLET....!
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS STRANGE--
IT DOES EPHRAIM!

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, DEATH ONCE AGAIN STRIKES FIENDISHLY..!
CALEB DID A GOOD JOB, JOHN!
YES HE WHA--!

THE COAT--! IT'S KILLING ME..!AAGHHRR!
JOHN! WHAT--! HELP...!!

WHEN NEWS OF THE SECOND HORRIBLE AND MYSTERIOUS DEATH SPREADS....IT BECOMES THE TOPIC OF MUCH FRIGHTENED CONVERSATION AND CONJECTURE!
IT WAS THE COAT...! THE COAT KILLED MY HUSBAND!
HOW COULD A COAT STRANGLE A MAN?

NO...! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE WRONG!
CALEB WILKS IS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL!!
AND HE SEWED THE COAT..!

THE STRICKEN TAILOR RUSHES BACK TO THE SHOP, UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS!
...JERE...JEREMIAH...! IT CAN'T BE....!

YOU....YOU'RE DEAD, I KILLED YOU...
BUT IT IS ME, CALEB! I HAVE RETURNED TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK! HA-HA-HA....!

MADDENED WITH FEAR, THE HYSTERICAL CALEB RUSHES WILDLY FROM THE SHOP AND ITS GHASTLY VISITOR...TO JEREMIAH'S GRAVE!
I MUST SEE...! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE! HE MUST BE WITHIN!

YOU ARE STILL HERE, JEREMIAH! WHAT WAS I IN FEAR OF! IT WAS MY IMAGINATION....! THAT'S IT! A HALLUCINATION!

BUT THE NEXT DAY, DEATH AGAIN STRIKES....
AAGHHRRR--! I.....CAN'T.... BREATHE...!
THE COAT...! IT'S CALEB WILKS' COAT!! HELP...!

THE NORMALLY TRANQUIL COMMUNITY IS AROUSED TO DRASTIC ACTION BY THIS THIRD HIDEOUS DEATH....!
CALEB'S A WITCH! I SAY LET'S GET HIM!
YES...BEFORE HE GETS US! HE'S A SON OF SATAN!
LET'S GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE!

AND WHAT WAS A DISORGANIZED, FEARFUL GROUP, IS TRANSFORMED INTO A VICIOUS MOB....BENT UPON RETRIBUTION...!
THEY...THEY'RE COMING FOR ME! THEY THINK I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE DEATHS!

HIS ONE THOUGHT BUT TO SAVE HIS MISERABLE LIFE, THE FEAR-CRAZED TAILOR THROWS HIS CLOAK OVER HIS SHOULDERS AND STARTS FOR THE REAR DOOR...!
THIS BUTTON...! IT WASN'T HERE BEFORE

IT'S JEREMIAH'S WORK...! THIS CLOAK...I-I'M BEING STRANGLED! AAARGGHHRR...!
HE'S INSIDE!
HE'S A WITCH!
BURN THE SHOP!

AND AS THE SHOP IS TRANSFORMED INTO A RAGING INFERNO, IT BECOMES THE FUNERAL PYRE FOR CALEB WILKS, WHO THOUGHT THAT A CRIME COULD BE BURIED FOREVER IN THE GRAVE....!
AIIIEEE...!

STRANGE...! DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE OLD JEREMIAH LAUGHING INSIDE!
THE END

THE VAMPIRE

LITTLE DID AL DESMOND KNOW HE WOULD BE IN A TERRIFYING WEB OF MYSTERY WHEN HE TOOK HIS FIANCÉE ON AN OUTING TO A TRAVELING CIRCUS THAT HAD COME TO TOWN! BUT THE HORRIBLE FATE THAT OVERTOOK HIM MIGHT OVERTAKE ANYONE---UNLESS AL DESMOND'S STRANGE STORY IS HEEDED.

REALLY, AL.... YOU'RE BEHAVING BADLY!
PALMISTRY IS NONSENSE ONLY TO FOOLS--AND I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE NO FOOL. MAY I EXAMINE YOUR HAND?
SURE!

OHHHH!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

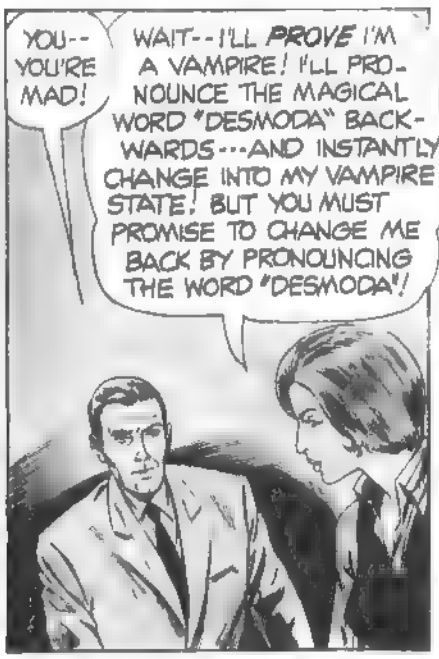
TELL ME... IS YOUR NAME, DESMOND?
WHY, YES-- BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

YOU WILL LEARN THE ANSWER AND A LOT MORE...IF YOU COME TO MY TENT AT MIDNIGHT.
I....I'LL BE HERE... .. AT MIDNIGHT!

I FORBID YOU TO VISIT THAT...THAT WITCH TONIGHT, AL!
I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT ELSE SHE HAS TO TELL ME-- AND NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL CHANGE MY MIND, LOUISE!

AS MIDNIGHT STRUCK, I MADE MY WAY TO DESMODA'S TENT....
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU FOR A LONG TIME---AND AT LAST I HAVE FOUND SOMEONE OF MY OWN KIND!
YOUR OWN KIND? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I AM A VAMPIRE---OF THE SPECIES DESMODA! MOST PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE SIMILAR TO DESMODA HAVE A HISTORY OF VAMPIRISM IN THEIR FAMILIES!


YOU--YOU'RE MAD!
WAIT--I'LL PROVE I'M A VAMPIRE! I'LL PRONOUNCE THE MAGICAL WORD "DESMODA" BACKWARDS---AND INSTANTLY CHANGE INTO MY VAMPIRE STATE! BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO CHANGE ME BACK BY PRONOUNCING THE WORD "DESMODA"!

SHE'S REALLY OFF HER ROCKER!
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE, I'LL PRONOUNCE THE WORD, "DESMODA"!
GOOD! NOW WATCH.... ADOMSED!

GREAT SCOTT! SHE..SHE DID CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE!

I....I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE---FAST!

OWW!

IT....IT'S CORNERED ME! I'D BETTER CHANGE HER BACK INTO HER HUMAN FORM....DESMODA!

YOU--YOU WERE RIGHT.... YOU'RE A WOMAN AGAIN!

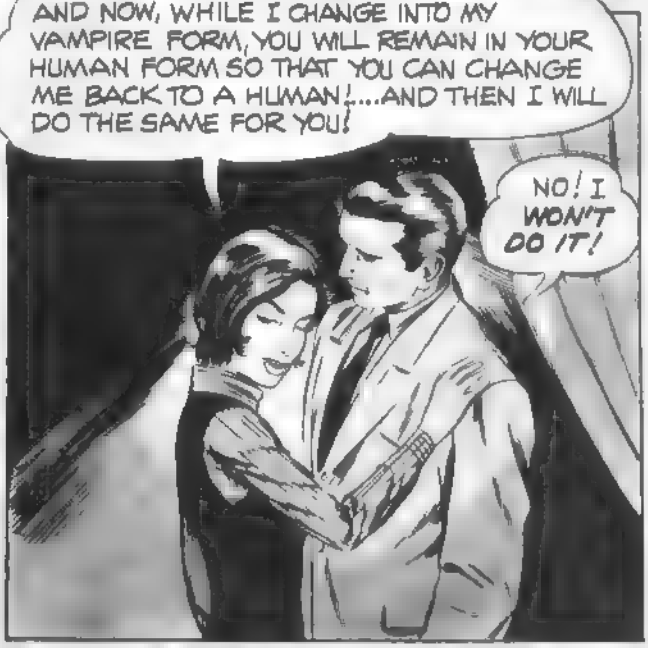
BELIEVE ME NOW?
Y-YES, I DO! BUT HOW DID YOU FIND THE SECRET OF TRANSFORMING YOURSELF INTO A VAMPIRE?

THE SECRET WAS PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION! BUT WHEN MY LAST LIVING RELATIVE---DIED RECENTLY, I STARTED LOOKING FOR ANOTHER VAMPIRE! I HAD TO FIND ONE, BECAUSE WHEN I CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE, I LOSE THE POWER OF HUMAN SPEECH....

THAT WAS WHY I HAD TO FIND SOMEONE WHO WOULD CHANGE ME BACK INTO MY HUMAN FORM AFTER MY VAMPIRISH ORGIES! AND I FOUND YOU!

ME? SURELY THE NAME OF DESMOND ISN'T ENOUGH PROOF!
THERE ARE OTHER SIGNS! FOUR FINGERS OF YOUR HAND HAVE ELONGATED BONES--- WHILE YOUR THUMB IS SMALL AND FREE! IT'S SIMILAR TO A BAT'S HAND!

MY HANDS ARE UNUSUAL.. ....BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WERE THE HANDS OF A VAMPIRE!
YES, THOSE ARE THE HANDS I'VE BEEN HOPING TO SEE EVER SINCE I BECAME A PALMIST!


AND NOW, WHILE I CHANGE INTO MY VAMPIRE FORM, YOU WILL REMAIN IN YOUR HUMAN FORM SO THAT YOU CAN CHANGE ME BACK TO A HUMAN!....AND THEN I WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!
NO! I WON'T DO IT!

I'LL NEVER JOIN YOU IN SUCH A FIENDISH PARTNERSHIP--I'LL NEVER CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE!
FOOL! I CAN CHANGE YOU INTO ONE INSTANTLY BY PRONOUNCING THE WORD BACKWARDS!...SUDOMSED!

"AND THE NEXT INSTANT I WAS A VAMPIRE, WITH A HORRIBLE THIRST FOR BLOOD!"
NOW YOU'RE IN MY POWER BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE YOU HUMAN AGAIN!

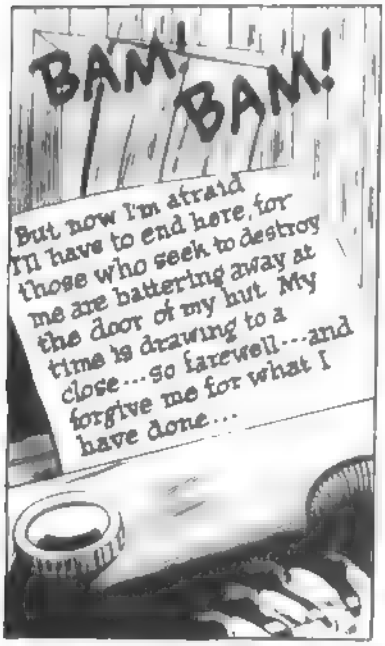
I KNOW YOU'VE STILL GOT HUMAN INSTINCTS IN YOU, BUT YOU'LL LOSE THEM AS SOON AS YOU TASTE THE BLOOD OF YOUR FIRST VICTIM! THEN YOU'LL BE A FULLFLEDGED VAMPIRE LIKE ME!

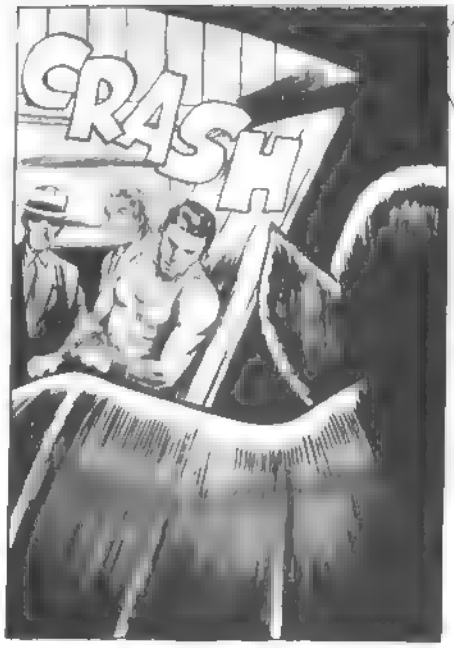
"THE THOUGHT OF BEING A LIFELONG SLAVE TO THAT FEMALE FIEND FILLED ME WITH HORROR! ENRAGED, I ADVANCED ON HER."
BACK, YOU FOOL! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, YOU'LL NEVER BE RESTORED TO HUMAN FORM!

"IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER OR NOT I EVER ASSUMED HUMAN FORM AGAIN! ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THAT I HAD TO KILL ...KILL... KILL!"
I'M DEFENSELESS AGAINST YOU IN MY HUMAN FORM....BUT NOT IN MY VAMPIRE FORM!...ADOMSED!

"I LEAPED ON HER BUT IT WAS TOO LATE--FOR SHE HAD ALREADY CHANGED INTO A VAMPIRE. THEN BEGAN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH!"

"...A BATTLE WHICH I WON, THANKS TO MY GREATER WEIGHT AND STRENGTH!"
"BUT NOW THAT I HAD SLAIN MY FIRST VICTIM, MY APPETITE FOR BLOOD WAS WHETTED--AND UNABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF, I FLEW OFF IN SEARCH OF OTHER VICTIMS!"
"I WENT ON A RAMPAGE THROUGH THE CIRCUS GROUNDS..."
"THE SHRIEKS OF MY DYING VICTIMS AROUSED THE ENTIRE CIRCUS.. ...DESPERATELY I SOUGHT SANCTUARY....."
THERE HE GOES---INTO THE MANAGER'S HUT!
I BARRED THE DOOR, KNOWING I COULD ONLY POSTPONE MY DOOM---AND MY ONLY CHANCE FOR ATONEMENT WAS TO WRITE A LETTER OF WARNING TO THE WORLD...."
Yes, that is why I wrote this story, hoping that it will be a warning to all who have the signs of a vampire. To all those people I say heed my warning...don't ever utter the words 'ADOMSED' or 'SUDOMSED'.. unless you want to suffer my horrible fate!


BAM! BAM!
But now I'm afraid I'll have to end here, for those who seek to destroy me are battering away at the door of my hut. My time is drawing to a close... so farewell... and forgive me for what I have done...


CRASH

THERE'S THE VAMPIRE--- SHOOT IT DOWN!
BULLETS CAN'T HURT A VAMPIRE--BUT I'LL GET SOMETHING THAT WILL!

THOSE BULLETS WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE VAMPIRE, AND IT'S STILL STANDING!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH A VAMPIRE--- AND THAT'S TO PIERCE HIS HEART WITH A WOODEN STAKE!

AND THIS POINTED TENT POLE MAKES AN EXCELLENT STAKE!

THAT'S THE END OF THAT VAMPIRE! I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT MADE HIM THE WAY HE WAS!
MAYBE WE WILL KNOW! HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT A LETTER IN MY TYPEWRITER!

HMMM, STRANGEST STORY I EVER READ! THERE'S NO TELLING WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT, BUT THE LEAST I CAN DO IS SEND IT ON TO THE MAGAZINE IT WAS ADDRESSED TO... JUST IN CASE THE STORY IS TRUE!
The End

"DANCE!" SCREAMED THE FRIGHTFUL FIGURE OF DEATH! ... AND THE FETID STENCH OF THE GRAVE CHOKED JOHN DRUNE'S QUIVERING NOSTRILS... AND HE KNEW AT LAST THAT THE MOULDERING HORROR IN HIS ARMS WAS THAT OF DEATH!

DEADMAN'S DANCE

THEY SAID OF JOHN DRUNE, THE OWNER, HE ALWAYS PRESENTED STARTLINGLY DIFFERENT ENTERTAINMENT!

TO MORBID, HUNGRY NIGHT CLUB CROWDS THE DEVIL'S DEN OFFERED NEW SENSATIONS IN ENTERTAINMENT!

GOLD WAS JOHN DRUNE'S GOD AND--IT LURED HIM ALONG DARK AND SINISTER PATHS OF EVIL!
WHAT? A HUNDRED DOLLARS TO FIREPROOF ONE DANCE DRESS? I WON'T PAY IT!
WHY SHOULD I? HELEN WON'T EVEN GET NEAR THE FLAMES! I'LL BE $100 AHEAD!
HERE'S THE DRESS, HELEN! ALL FIREPROOFED, BUT KEEP AWAY FROM THE FLAMES, IT'S DANGEROUS!
OF COURSE, MR. DRUNE!
THAT NIGHT..
LOOK AT THAT CROWD! AND NO MONEY WASTED ON NONSENSE LIKE FIREPROOFING A DANCE DRESS!
SUDDENLY, AT THE CLIMAX OF THE WEIRD CHILLING DANCE...
LOOK OUT! THE FLAME...
EEEEE!
HELEN!
THE FOOL! THAT DRESS COST $250!
IT WAS DON WAND WHO SPRANG TO SMOTHER THE FLAMES, BUT HER SHRIEKS OF ANGUISH HAD DIED AWAY!
SHE CAN'T LAST! THE FLAME WENT INTO HER LUNGS!
JOHN! JOHN... DRUNE...

YOU... TRICKED ME... LIED! YOU... KILLED ME! BUT... I'LL HAVE... REVENGE! AHHHH!
MURDERER!
YOU LIED ABOUT FIREPROOFING HER DRESS! YOU KILLED HER BUT I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU...
MR. DRUNE WASN'T TO BLAME! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I SAW IT HAPPEN MYSELF!
TH-THANKS, OFFICER!
WHAT IF THIS DRIVES AWAY BUSINESS? A NASTY THING LIKE THIS COULD RUIN ME!
BUT JOHN DRUNE NEED NOT HAVE WORRIED ABOUT BUSINESS! NEXT NIGHT...
IS THIS WHERE THAT POOR GIRL WAS BURNED ALIVE? SHOW ME THE SPOT, DARLING! I LO-O-OVE CREEPY THINGS!
I SHOULD HAVE SAVED THAT DANCE DRESS! THEY'D BUY PIECES OF IT AS SOUVENIRS I'LL BET!
HOURS LATER, WHEN THE DEVIL'S DEN HAS CLOSED AND THE LAST HELP GONE FOR THE NIGHT!
AHH, THAT BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL MONEY! NOW I CAN SIT DOWN AND REALLY ENJOY MY GORGEOUS PROFITS!
LOOK AT THOSE LOVELY BILLS... EEEAAHHH!

YIIII! PUT ME DOWN! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT KIND OF A TRICK IS THIS? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
TRICK?

SUDDENLY THERE WAS ANOTHER FIGURE IN THE ROOM!
EEEEAAA! MY MONEY! STOP!
BLOOD MONEY! IT CAME FROM FIRE .. LET IT RETURN TO FIRE!

THE GRAVE STENCH WAS CHOKING, THE RELENTLESS GRIP OF SKELETON HANDS LIKE IRON! STILL JOHN DRUNE CLUNG TO A SHRED OF SANITY!
I GET IT! THIS IS AN ACT YOU WANT ME TO HIRE! OKAY, SEE ME TOMORROW! I SIGN A CONTRACT!
YOUR CONTRACT WITH ME WAS SIGNED THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, JOHN DRUNE!
ON YOUR FEET! WE HAVE COME TO SEE YOUR DANCE OF DEATH...
YOU RE CRAZY! IT'S ALL SOME CRAZY NIGHTMARE!

SUDDENLY JOHN DRUNE WAS RIMMED BY A RING OF FIRE.
EEEAA! FIRE!
OF COURSE! WASN'T THAT YOUR MASTER-PIECE? THE DANCE OF DEATH IN A CIRCLE OF FIRE?

AND ANOTHER FIGURE WAS THERE BEFORE HIM . A FIGURE SO FRAUGHT WITH HORROR THAT HIS SENSES REELED!
NO! NO. Y-YOU'RE DEAD!
OF COURSE . AND YOU KILLED ME! AND NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO DANCE WITH DEATH!

I WON'T! EEOWW!
IF YOU FIND YOUR PARTNER DISTASTEFUL ... REMEMBER, YOU MADE HER AS SHE IS!

THE ORCHESTRA STRUCK UP THE STRAINS OF THE DEAD MARCH! JOHN DRUNE WHIRLED THROUGH THE MACABRE DANCE!
NO! NO! NO!
LET ME GO! GET AWAY FROM ME!
DO I REVOLT YOU, JOHN? YOU HIRED ME! I WAS SO BEAUTIFUL!
HELEN FELT THE SAME WHEN YOU MADE HER DANCE WITH ME!
HOLD ME CLOSER, JOHN! YOU'LL FIND ME ATTRACTIVE AGAIN WHEN YOU HAVE BECOME LIKE ME!
AFTER AN ETERNITY, THE SOBBING STRAINS OF MUSIC DIED! FROM THE TABLES CAME THE CLATTER OF BONY HANDS APPLAUDING!
CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN DRUNE! THE CROWD LIKES YOUR DANCE!
IN TERROR, JOHN DRUNE THREW HIMSELF AT THE FEET OF THE HIDEOUS APPARITION!
NO! NO! DON'T MAKE ME GO THROUGH THAT ANY MORE! I'LL DO ANYTHING... PAY ANYTHING...
BUT... WHY HIS FEET AREN'T MOULDERING BONES! THEY'RE SOLID FLESH... ICY COLD BUT FIRM FLESH!
OKAY! I'M WISE TO YOU, NOW! YOU WERE CUTE, BUT NOT QUITE CUTE ENOUGH!
SO YOU FINALLY DISCOVERED MY IDENTITY!

JOHN DRUNE WAS STILL SCREAMING WITH THE LAUGHTER OF MADNESS WHEN THE POLICE BROKE INTO THE DEVIL'S DEN AT DAWN!

THE END

THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT... ANY CLERK WILL TELL YOU THAT, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER...

SATAN'S CAT

ENTER, MONSIEUR! YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME, EH?
TRUE, BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I KNOW MANY THINGS... NOW HOW CAN I SERVE YOU?
WELL, ER--

CAN I TALK HERE?
CERTAINLY! DIABLO WILL NOT TELL YOUR SECRET!

I WANT YOU TO MURDER MY WIFE!

MURDER IS SUCH A HORRIBLE WORD, MONSIER... LET'S SAY... DO AWAY WITH!
CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL... BUT IT MUST BE SOON!

BUT WHAT IS YOUR HURRY? SERVICES LIKE THIS CANNOT BE RUSHED!
BUT IT HAS TO BE! SHE PLANS TO RUN AWAY WITH A YOUNGER MAN NEXT FRIDAY!

TELL ME ABOUT HER! THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES AS TO HER IDENTITY! IN MY BUSINESS, ONE CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE A MISTAKE!
WELL, SHE'S TALL, BLONDE, STRIKING TO LOOK AT AND SHE HAS A TINY SCAR ON HER LEFT CHEEK!

HMM.. THAT'S ABOUT ALL, I GUESS... OH, YES... HER NAME IS...
NO NAMES, MONSIEUR! ONE CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL IN MY OCCUPATION!

ANY HABIT? ANYTHING AT ALL! SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP ME PERFORM THIS, ER... SERVICE!
YES--COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE HAS A GREAT FONDNESS FOR LICORICE.. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE BOTH DO... BUT THAT MIGHT HELP YOU!

LICORICE, EH? THEN IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE TO ARRANGE! A LITTLE PRICK OF THE NEEDLE ON A FEW PIECES AND THEN... IT'S ALL OVER!
DON'T DESCRIBE IT! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

SORRY, MONSIER, I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE SO SQUEAMISH! BUT NOW TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!
YES, YOUR FEE! I WILL DOUBLE IT IF YOU CAN DO A RUSH JOB FOR ME!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU, SIR, BUT YOU KNOW THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT--- AND I HAVE ANOTHER SERVICE TO PERFORM BEFORE YOURS!
WHAT LUCK! BUT YOU WILL DO IT BEFORE FRIDAY, WON'T YOU?

CERTAINLY! IT SEEMS LIKE A FAIRLY SIMPLE JOB! THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY COMPLICATIONS!
GOOD! WELL, THEN, HERE'S YOUR MONEY!

THANK YOU, SIR...THANK YOU! NOW, REMEMBER... DON'T EVER CONTACT ME AGAIN...UNLESS OF COURSE YOU SHOULD EVER FIND NEED OF MY SERVICES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT... I'M GOING ABROAD VERY SHORTLY!

HAVE A NICE TRIP, SIR... AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING.. I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING BY FRIDAY!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! BUT I WISH YOU COULD DO THIS SERVICE FIRST! OH, WELL, I GUESS YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS BEST!

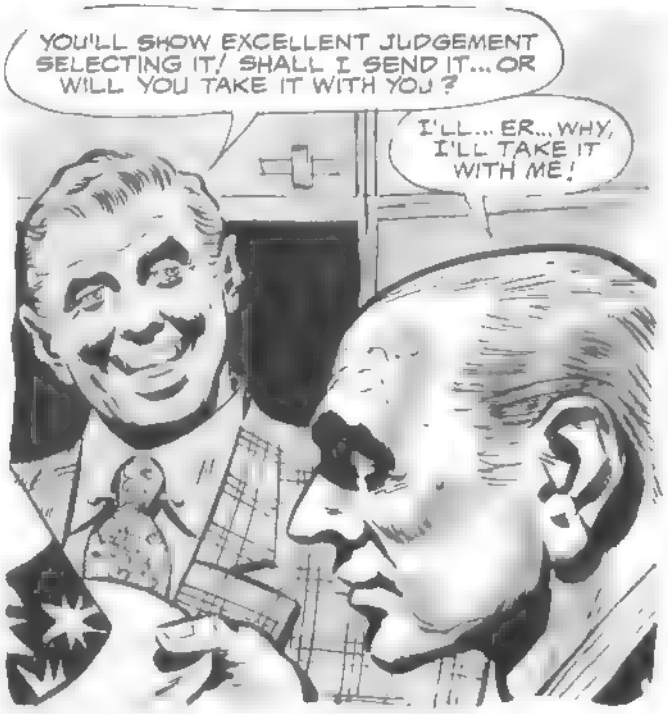
THE IMPATIENCE OF SOME PEOPLE, EH, DIABLO? COME... LET US PREPARE FOR THE OTHER ASSIGNMENT!

THIS WILL BE SIMPLER THAN I IMAGINED... ELDERLY MAN... SLIGHT SCAR ON FORHEAD... WEARS SPATS... LIKES LICORICE... WIFE WANTS TO DO AWAY WITH HIM!

IF HE ONLY KNEW... BUT THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT... ONLY-- FIRST COME FIRST SERVED! HEH...HEH...HEH!
THE END

HELEN APPLETON WAS CONSTANTLY PEEVED BECAUSE HER HUSBAND WAS MORE A MOUSE THAN A MAN... BUT WHEN HE CHANGED SHE LIKED IT MUCH LESS...

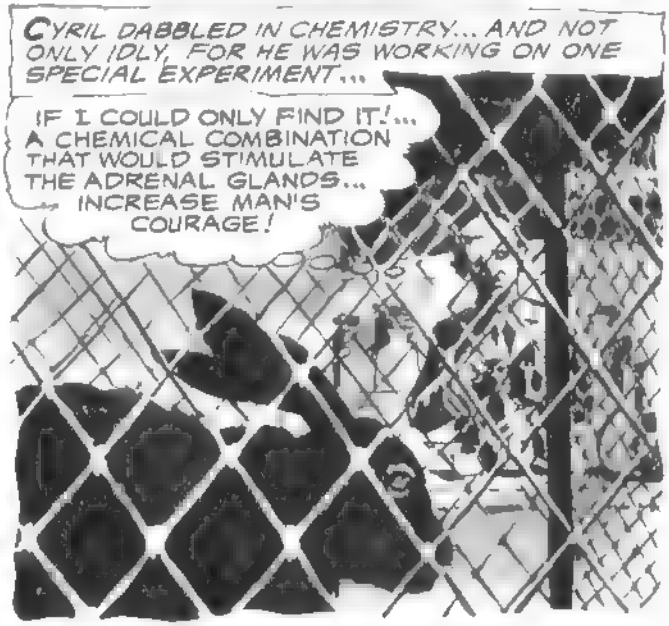
THE MONSTER



AND WHEN CYRIL GOT HOME TO HIS WIFE...
CYRIL! HOW CAN YOU WEAR A HAT LIKE THAT? DID THE SALESMAN TALK YOU INTO IT...
WHY, ER... HE WAS RATHER PERSUASIVE, DEAR!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A WEAK-WILLED, SPINELESS CREATURE AS YOU! YOU HAVEN'T THE GUMPTION TO SPEAK YOUR MIND! WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, ASK MR. FITCH FOR A RAISE TOMORROW!
I CAN'T, DEAR! HE... HE'S SO TOUCHY THAT...

WELL, SO AM I... AND I WON'T GIVE YOU A MOMENTS PEACE UNTIL YOU ASK!
VERY WELL, DEAR! AND NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME... YOU KNOW... IN THE CELLAR!


CYRIL DABBLED IN CHEMISTRY... AND NOT ONLY IDLY, FOR HE WAS WORKING ON ONE SPECIAL EXPERIMENT...
IF I COULD ONLY FIND IT!... A CHEMICAL COMBINATION THAT WOULD STIMULATE THE ADRENAL GLANDS... INCREASE MAN'S COURAGE!

CYRIL WORKED PARTICULARLY LATE THAT NIGHT, AND...
THIS MAY BE IT! PRECIPITATION... JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR... MUST TRY IT ON THE RABBIT... AT ONCE!

AT THAT MOMENT...
CYRIL! IT'S LATE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I... I THINK I FOUND IT... A LIQUID THAT WILL GIVE ME COURAGE!

HMMMPH! YOU WON'T FIND COURAGE IN A BOTTLE... BUT MAYBE YOU WILL WORK A MIRACLE, AND BECOME A MAN AFTER ALL! I'M GOING UP TO READ A WHILE!

I'LL POUR A LITTLE... JUST A DROP ON THIS LETTUCE LEAF...

CYRIL FED THE LETTUCE LEAF TO THE RABBIT, AND...
THAT EXPRESSION ON ITS FACE... IT... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A RABBIT ANYMORE... IT'S MORE LIKE SOME... SOME WILD JUNGLE BEAST!

THE RABBIT CONTINUED TO CHANGE...
RRRRRR!

MORE AND MORE...
TRUMK!
CRAK!
SSSRRAK!
GGRRRROOR!

AND THEN...
GRRRRRRRR!
AHHHHEEE

WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO TAMPER WITH NATURE! IT... IT'S GOING TO DEVOUR ME, ALIVE!

SUDDENLY...
THANK GOODNESS! IT...IT'S CHANGING BACK! LUCKY I USED ONLY A DROP OF THE STUFF!

CYRIL, WHAT WAS THAT COMMOTION!
I..I FOUND THE CHEMICAL I WAS LOOKING FOR...IT...IT CHANGED THE RABBIT INTO A MONSTROSITY!

HMMMFFF! YOU PROBABLY FELL ASLEEP AND DREAMED IT! COME NOW IT'S TIME FOR BED! SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO SEE MR. FINCH IN THE MORNING!
I WASN'T DREAMING! OH... WHAT'S THE USE! YES, DEAR!

CYRIL SLEPT VERY LITTLE THAT NIGHT...
I MUST DESTROY THAT BOTTLE TOMORROW... IT...IT'S NOT SAFE TO LET IT LIE AROUND!

NEXT DAY IN MR. FINCH'S, OFFICE...
MR. FINCH, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT A...ER...CERTAIN MATTER...
WHY, APPLETON, I KNOW JUST WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND!

I BET YOU HEARD THAT WE'RE IN BAD STRAITS FINANCIALLY, AND YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING FOR A PAY CUT! A LOYAL EMPLOYEE IF THERE WAS ONE!
WHY... ER... YES, MR. FINCH! THAT'S ER... JUST WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

AND, WHEN CYRIL GOT HOME THAT NIGHT...
AND YOU LET HIM TALK YOU INTO A CUT INSTEAD OF A RAISE! OF ALL THE MEN IN THE WORLD, I HAD TO PICK A WEAK-MINDED JELLY FISH LIKE YOU! WHY DON'T YOU DRINK THAT STUFF THAT'LL MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU!

NO! NO! YOU MUST BE JOKING! I FORGOT... BUT I HAVE TO GET RID OF IT... RIGHT NOW!
PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT AFTER SUPPER, DEAR! JUST SIT DOWN AND RELAX!

MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING IN IT, AFTER ALL! JUST LIKE HIM TO BREW A CONCOCTION THAT WOULD GIVE HIM COURAGE, AND THEN BE AFRAID TO DRINK IT! WELL, WE'LL SEE!

HELEN POURED HALF THE BOTTLE INTO CYRIL'S EGGNOG, AND...
THIS EGGNOG-- I DETECT A STRANGE FLAVOR!
JUST YOUR IMAGINATION, DEAR! DRINK IT DOWN! IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

CYRIL DRANK IT TO THE LAST DROP, AND...
CYRIL! YOUR FACE!

CYRIL... DON'T COME NEAR ME!
RIIP!
RIIIIIIP!
RIIP!

NO! NO! STAY THERE!

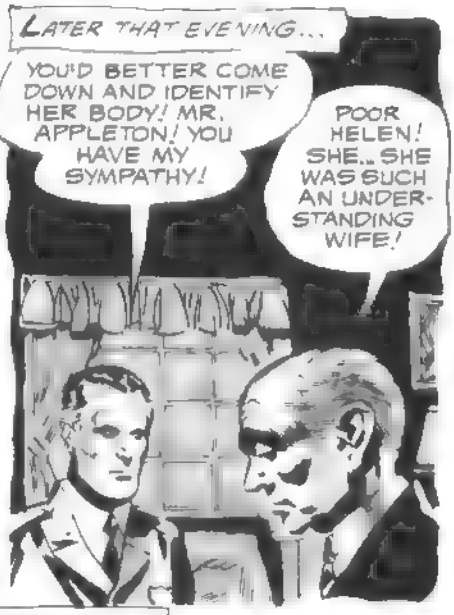
AAIIIIIIEEEEEE!

HELP! HELP!

I ALWAYS WANTED TO KILL YOU... AND NOW... YOU... YOU GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO DO IT.
AAAGGGHH!!

THOSE WOODS... MUST HIDE... TILL IT WEARS OFF!
EEEH! LOOK!
STOP... OR I'LL SHOOT!

CYRIL FOUND A SHELTERED CAVE, AND WHILE ARMED POLICE SOUGHT HIM..
DIDN'T SEE ME! MUST GO HOME... SOON AS I CHANGE BACK!


LATER THAT EVENING...
YOU'D BETTER COME DOWN AND IDENTIFY HER BODY! MR. APPLETON! YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY!
POOR HELEN! SHE.. SHE WAS SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING WIFE!

AND THAT NIGHT, ALONE IN THE CELLAR...
I...I'LL NEVER USE IT AGAIN... IT'S IT'S HORRIBLE! SUCH A STRANGE, EXCITING SENSE OF POWER! I NEVER FELT BETTER IN ALL MY LIFE! I WONDER... SHOULD I?

HE DID! AND DAYS LATER CYRIL WAS KILLED BY THE POLICE WHEN HE ATTACKED HIS NEIGHBOR, MRS CORA ADAMS!
MARCHIONNE
The End

HARDENED KILLERS FELT THE CLAMMY HANDS OF FEAR, THE CHILL OF THE GRAVE WHEN THEIR VICTIM APPEARED TO CLAIM...

the DEADMAN'S HAND

G-GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE DEAD!

DEAD, BUT NOT BURIED!

BY MORNING JIM REARDON LOST 50 GRAND IN A POKER GAME...

TOUGH LUCK, JIM!

BUT NICE FOR US!

I'M CLEANED OUT! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

BUT AXEL, REARDON'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, HADN'T PLAYED! ...AND WHEN THE WINNERS LEFT...

THEY TOOK YOU, BOSS! I TRIED TO TIP YOU OFF BUT YOU WOULDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME!

MY PALS! THEY'LL PAY FOR THIS!

WHAT'LL YOU DO, BOSS?
KILL THEM, AXEL! AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING CAUGHT! NOBODY'LL SEE YOU! THEY'LL SEE DAN PATCH!
PATCH! BUT HE'S BEEN DEAD OVER A YEAR!
SURE, AXEL, SURE! AND A BEAUTIFUL JOB WE DID ON HIM! HA! HA! IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!
YES, OF A MAN NAMED PATCH TIRED OF LIVING OUTSIDE THE LAW, MADE A VISIT TO THE D.A.'S OFFICE!
THE BOYS WANT TO SEE YOU, DAN! ABOUT YOUR CHAT WITH TH' D.A.!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THEM!
ISN'T THAT NICE? TELL US ABOUT IT!
NO... NO... YOU GUYS CAN'T DO THIS...
BUT DAN'S FORMER FRIENDS COULD... AND THEY DID!
DON'T... AGGH-H!
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU WENT TO THE D.A.!
BRUTALLY, THEY CUT AT HIS FLESH... UNTIL WHAT WAS LEFT BARELY LOOKED LIKE A MAN...
YOU DIDN'T THINK WE'D KILL YOU THE EASY WAY, DID YOU, DAN? THIS IS WHAT DOUBLE-CROSSERS GET!
THEN AS DEATH MERCIFULLY CAME TO DAN PATCH'S RESCUE...
Y-YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS... SOME DAY I'LL GET EVEN!
HA! HA! LISTEN TO HIM!

MEMORIES OF A BRUTAL MURDER CAME BACK TO PROD THE SCHEMING MIND OF JIM REARDON...
BUT I DON'T GET IT, BOSS! HOW DOES PATCH FIT IN NOW?
IT'S SIMPLE, AXEL! FRANKLIN AND BELLOWS PUT ONE OVER ON ME! YOU KNOW WHAT THEY THINK A DOUBLE-CROSSER DESERVES!
JUST KILLING 'EM IS TOO EASY! THEY'RE GOING TO TASTE TERROR FIRST... DAN PATCH IS GOING TO KILL 'EM!
PATCH? SURE, HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT REVENGE... HOW CAN YOU BRING PATCH BACK?
YOU'LL BE PATCH, AXEL! ON THE NIGHT OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF PATCHE'S DEATH, BELLOWS AND FRANKLIN WILL PLAY POKER WITH ME AGAIN! I'LL ARRANGE IT... AND AT THE RIGHT TIME YOU'LL COME IN MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE DAN PATCH!
HA! HA! IT'LL BE FUN TO SEE THEIR FACES!
REARDON THREW THE BAIT OF NEWLY ACQUIRED MONEY BEFORE BELLOWS AND FRANKLIN... THE PAIR INVITED HIM TO PLAY ON THE NIGHT REARDON HAD CHOSEN...
I'M GLAD YOU GOT YOURSELF A NEW STAKE, JIM!
I'M SURE YOU ARE, PAL...
AS THE GAME PROGRESSED...
FUNNY, US BEING HERE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF DAN'S DEATH! HE USED TO LIKE A GOOD POKER GAME!
AH-H... FORGET THAT STOOLIE! HOW MANY CARDS?
AND AFTER MIDNIGHT...
SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR! YOU EXPECTING AXEL, JIM?
NO, AXEL'S HOME SICK! HIS ULCERS AGAIN!
PATCH! D-DAN PATCH!
N-NO... IT CAN'T BE!

CALMLY, THE TERRIFYING SPECTRE MOVED TOWARD THE TABLE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOYS? AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO SEE YOUR OLD PAL? I THOUGHT I'D JOIN YOU IN A FRIENDLY GAME OF POKER!
THIS IS NUTS! CRAZY! --HE'S DEAD!
SURE I'M DEAD... BUT I CAME BACK! NOW LET'S PLAY!
YEAH, SURE, DAN ... SURE!
REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU BELLOWS? REMEMBER WHAT I SAID?
WH--WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SUDDENLY RELENTLESS FINGERS CLOSED AROUND BELLOW'S THROAT...
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, BELLOWS... SLOWLY... PAINFULLY THE WAY I DIED!
JIM... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
BUT INSTEAD, JIM REARDON MANAGED TO KEEP FRANKLIN IN THE ROOM...
NO...WAIT... MAYBE IT'S OUR IMAGINATION!
HE'S KILLING HIM ... AND THAT'S NOT MY IMAGINATION!
DIE LIKE I DIED! DIE... DIE...
THEN REARDON PUSHED FRANKLIN INTO THE ARMS OF THE CADAVER...
AND YOU, FRANKLIN ARE NEXT!
JIM... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NO! LET ME GO!
REARDON GRINNED AS FRANKLIN SCREAMED...
PAIN... AND MORE PAIN... AND FINALLY DEATH, FRANKLIN!
HOW DO YOU LIKE A DOUBLE-CROSSER'S DEATH, FRANKLIN!

And THEN, FRANKLIN TOO LAY DEAD...
NICE WORK, AXEL! IT WORKED JUST LIKE WE PLANNED!
AXEL? WHY DO YOU CALL ME AXEL, JIM?
REARDON FELT A STRANGE CHILL TRAVEL UP HIS SPINE...
BUT I AM NOT AXEL!
HA! HA! ALL RIGHT, AXEL, LET'S NOT CARRY THE GAG TOO FAR!

AND IT IS YOUR TURN TO DIE!
CUT IT OUT, AXEL! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY? STOP!
BEFORE HE COULD GET OUT OF REACH, A HAND HAD CLOSED AROUND REARDON'S ARM...
HOW DO YOU LIKE A BROKEN ARM, JIM!
AXEL, FOR GOD'S SAKE... YOU'RE BREAKING MY ARM!
REARDON BROKE AWAY AND RAN FOR THE DOOR...
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...

IT MUST BE AXEL... BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM... HE'S GONE CRAZY!
HARD AS HE TRIED TO CONVINCE HIMSELF THAT IT WAS AXEL, DOUBT MADE REARDON RETURN TO HIS APARTMENT TO MAKE SURE AXEL WAS NOT THERE...
HE'S DOUBLE-CROSSED ME, TOO! IT... IT COULDN'T BE ANYONE BUT AXEL! GHOSTS... REVENGE... NUTS!

BUT WHEN REARDON CAME HOME...
AXEL! HE'S DEAD! THAT MEANS...
YES, IT MEANS THAT I HAVE RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE JIM! ...TONIGHT WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY DEATH! I WANTED TO CELEBRATE!
AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!
NO... NOT ME! NO!
PAIN AND AGONY FILLED JIM REARDON AS THE MAN FROM THE GRAVE LASHED OUT...
ARGGHHH!
MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER APARTMENT
OFFICER! I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH SCREAMS! FOR GOD'S SAKE, GET OVER HERE FAST!
WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED, THEY FOUND ONLY THE BROKEN BODIES OF AXEL AND REARDON!
LIEUTENANT, HEADQUARTERS SAY TWO OTHER GUYS WERE FOUND KILLED THIS SAME WAY!
WHEW! BROTHER... THIS SOUNDS LIKE A TOUGH ONE!
A TOUGH ONE YES! MORTAL MAN HAS NO WAY OF DEALING WITH A NEMESIS FROM THE GRAVE!
the End

REVENGE CAN SOMETIMES BE SO SUBTLE! MURDER OF THE SOUL, IF NOT THE BODY, CAN BE A FINE ART! MARK CUMMINS, WHO WAS ALL BRAIN AND NO HEART, WAS AN ARTIST SUPREME WHEN IT CAME TO REVENGE! HE DEVISED THE MOST FIENDISH SCHEME EVER DREAMED UP BY A HUMAN BEING - IF HE **WAS** HUMAN! BUT IN THE END HE FELL INTO HIS OWN TRAP AND HIMSELF BECAME ONE OF THE

HEADS OF HORROR

MARK CUMMINS, TOP PHYSICIST, WAS ALL BRAIN..
SORRY, LISBETH, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE PARTY ALONE! I'VE GOT TO DO THIS NEW EXPERIMENT!
PLEASE, MARK, NOT AGAIN! IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE TAKEN ME OUT! WE MIGHT AS WELL NOT BE MARRIED!
WHILE LISBETH, HIS WIFE WAS ALL WOMAN!
I HATE HIM! ALL HE THINKS OF ARE HIS EXPERIMENTS! I MIGHT AS WELL BE MARRIED TO A TEST TUBE!
IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT LISBETH WOULD MEET A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN! THAT NIGHT AT THE PARTY!..
YOU KNOW, MRS CUMMINS - LISBETH - I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU ALL MY LIFE!
NOW, TED! REALLY! YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT!
BUT I LOVE IT!
YOU'RE LOVELY! I MUST SEE YOU AGAIN, PROMISE!
YES! I-I SHOULDN'T, BUT I WILL! WHY NOT? MY HUSBAND DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M ALIVE!
IT IS EQUALLY INEVITABLE THAT THEY GET CAUGHT.
SO THAT'S IT! LISBETH HAS FOUND A LOVER!
DARLING, ISN'T THIS DANGEROUS?
DON'T BE SILLY! MARK'S TOO BUSY WITH HIS EXPERIMENTS!

LATER..
SO SHE THINKS SHE CAN MAKE A FOOL OF ME, EH? HAH! I'LL SHOW THEM- BUT THERE'S NO HURRY- I'LL WAIT UNTIL I CAN THINK OF A REALLY SUBTLE WAY TO GET REVENGE!

STILL LATER.
AT LAST! THE SHIPMENT FROM HODGES IN CEYLON! WONDER HOW HE'S BEEN GETTING ALONG WITH HIS EXPERIMENTS? UGH!- TRYING TO SHRINK HUMAN HEADS ARTIFICIALLY!

HE DID IT! IT'S ALL HERE IN HIS LETTER, THE FORMULA AND EVERYTHING! HE TOOK THE HEADS FROM NORMAL CORPSES AND TURNED THEM INTO THIS!

ONE NIGHT A FEW WEEKS LATER...
I CAN'T STAND THIS MUCH LONGER, DARLING! YOU MUST DIVORCE THAT STUPID HUSBAND OF YOURS AND MARRY ME!
YES! I'LL TELL HIM TONIGHT, AFTER YOU GO! HE WON'T CARE!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, LISBETH! I DO CARE! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GO!
HUH! THAT GUN!
MARK! W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

MARK CUMMINS FORCES HIS WIFE AND HER LOVER INTO THE LABORATORY...
Y-YOU WOULDN'T KILL US, CUMMINS! THEY'LL GET YOU SURE!
PLEASE, MARK, LET US GO! YOU KNOW YOU DON'T LOVE ME!
INSIDE! AND DON'T WORRY- I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU!
AND...
THERE! YOU DID A GOOD JOB! AND NOW I'LL DO AN EVEN BETTER JOB ON YOU!
Y-YOU'RE INSANE, CUMMINS! LET US GO! WE'LL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!
HA HA! YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, AT LEAST! YOU'LL NEVER BOTHER ME AGAIN!
MMMFF-HHHHFFF-
FFMMM-HHHHHHH-
...MY FRIEND FOUND OUT HOW TO SHRINK THEM IN HOURS! AND I CARRIED IT EVEN FURTHER! I CAN SHRINK LIVE TISSUE! NEED I - HA HA HA SAY MORE?
THEN...
SEE THESE HEADS? THEY WERE ONCE NORMAL SIZE! A COLLEAGUE OF MINE, AFTER YEARS WITH THE HEAD-HUNTERS OF CEYLON, DISCOVERED THEIR SECRET! BUT WHERE IT TAKES THEM MONTHS TO SHRINK A HEAD...

A TERRIBLE EXPERIMENT BEGINS...
THIS WON'T HURT YOU, MY DEAR! NOT- (CHUCKLE) PHYSICALLY, AT LEAST! I'LL SHRINK BOTH YOUR HEADS TO EXACTLY THE SAME SIZE!
MMMFFF SPUTTERR-
...AND THEN I'LL LET YOU GO! YOU WILL DESERVE EACH OTHER THEN! MAYBE - HA HA - YOU CAN FIND WORK IN A FREAK SHOW! A PAIR OF HO HO - PIN HEADS!
WHEN THE GHASTLY WORK IS DONE...
I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS ALONE NOW! IT WILL TAKE A LITTLE TIME FOR THE FORMULA TO WORK! I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR TWO!
MMMFFF!
BUT AS SOON AS THE DOOR CLOSES.
MFF- GAAFF- SPUTTER-
TED - TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING! WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO? TRYING TO GET TO THE BENCH - TO THAT BOTTLE!
UHGHFMM- GAAAA-
I KNOW! THE ACID! NO, DARLING, DON'T! HORRIBLE! EAT YOUR FLESH TO THE BONE!

BUT HE SUCCEEDS IN SPILLING THE ACID...
GUFFNNNN!
THE FIERY STUFF EATS AWAY THE ROPES...
I-DID-IT-OHHHHH THE PAIN! BUT I'LL UNTIE YOU, LISBETH! WE'LL-GET-AWAY! UHHHHH!
BUT AS THE GAG COMES OFF...
TED! YOUR H-HEAD! OHH-HORRIBLE! EEEEEEE-
YIODOWW-
THE FORMULA! IT WORKS! MY HEAD-SHRINKING!
LISBETH! Y-YOUR HEAD, TOO! LIKE MINE!
EEEEEEE! HE DID THIS TO US! WE'RE FREAKS NOW!

OUT OF FEAR AND UTTER DESPAIR COMES HATE - AND A DREADFUL PLAN
IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY WE COULD GET EVEN! KILLING IS TOO GOOD FOR THAT MONSTER!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! IF WE CAN FIND THAT SYRINGE HE USED ON US! THERE MAY BE SOME SERUM LEFT!
AH, HERE IT IS! AND THERE IS SOME OF THE FORMULA LEFT! YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, LISBETH!
YES! ONLY HURRY, I HEAR HIM COMING! GET BEHIND THE DOOR!
GOT YOU, YOU FIEND!
DON'T KILL HIM! REMEMBER OUR PLAN! GET HIS GUN!
HUH! WHA?
MARK CUMMINS GETS THE BITTEREST DOSE IN THE WORLD... HIS OWN MEDICINE...
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST LIKE US! YOU'LL BE A FREAK TOO!
NO! PLEASE! I'LL LOOK LIKE - LIKE YOU TWO HORRORS!
HURRY! YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO! LET'S GET IT OVER WITH BEFORE WE LOSE OUR NERVE!
GOODBYE! WE'RE GOING TO KILL OURSELVES! I ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME!
YES, YOU'LL FIND THE GUN BY OUR BODIES!
NO, DON'T LEAVE ME! THERE MIGHT STILL BE A CHANCE!

GOODBYE, DARLING! WE CAN'T LIVE THIS WAY! I'LL SHOOT YOU, AND THEN.
YES, MY LOVE! G-GOODBYE!
THE TERROR STRICKEN MAN, HIS HEAD ALREADY SHRINKING, HEARS THE SHOTS...
YOWWWWW THEY DID IT! THEY KILLED THEMSELVES! HELP! HELP! MY HEAD---
BANG BANG
AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE TO INVESTIGATE THE SCREAMING..
GREAT SCOTT! WHAT IS IT?
UGH! I DON'T KNOW! AND I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT AGAIN! SOUNDS LIKE HE-IT IS CRAZY!
HEE-HEE UGL-DUGG-HA HA HO-GURGLE HO HEE HAW-HO-ULK-
SO WHO IN THE END WAS THE FREAK...
STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! SEE THE GREATEST FREAK SHOW OF ALL TIME! RIGHT THIS WAY! ONLY A DIME!
THE END

in the SLIME BELOW

SUDDENLY--IN THE MIDST OF THE CEREMONY...
EXCUSE ME, COMMISSIONER! BUT.. BUT THERE'S BEEN A ROBBERY... IN... WHITE CHAPEL! SEXTO, THE JEWELER IS OUTSIDE!
I SAY...
WHAT...?!! WHITE CHAPEL!

THAT'S IN JARET'S TERRITORY!
YES! TO BAD CECIL IS RETIRING!
NOT YET! LET US SEE SEXTO THE JEWELER!

SO THEY SAW THE WORRIED LITTLE MAN...
THE BELLES DOUBLOON WAS TAKEN! A BLOODY RARE COIN! TERRIBLE... SHOCKING!
POINT OUT THE CULPRIT FROM THESE PICTURES!

WAS HE THE ONE? HE WAS, WASN'T HE? SPEAK!
I--I'M NOT SURE... HE LOOKS FAMILIAR!

LES MISERABLES! OF COURSE! I WILL BRING THIS MAN IN!

THAT NIGHT IN A SHABBY TAVERN SOMEWHERE IN LONDON...
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, LES! I WANT YOU!
(BLIMEY) YA-A-A-AH!

IT--IT'S JARET! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
STOP... IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

GOT TO... GET AWAY! I DIDN'T HAVE A ALIBI... LAST NIGHT!
MISERABLES, I AM INSPECTOR JARET! YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!

JARET'S GOT THE WRONG BLOKE! BUT ... HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE THAT! A SEWER! WHAT A BLOODY BREAK!

THE BLOODY SEWER WON'T HELP YOU MISERABLES! I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN... EVEN THERE!

STOP! LES MISERABLES ... STOP!
YEOW! THERE... HE IS!

LES MISERABLES SCRAMBLED DOWN INTO THE STENCHING LONDON SEWERS...BUT THIS DID NOT STOP INSPECTOR JARET!
I KNOW THESE SEWERS ... LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!
GIVE UP, MISERABLES! YOU...CANNOT ... ESCAPE!

I ALWAYS BRING BACK MY MAN, MISERABLES!

THERE... YOU... ARE!
BANG!

HE -- TRIED TO KILL ME! GOT TO...(GASP) ...GET OUT OF HERE...

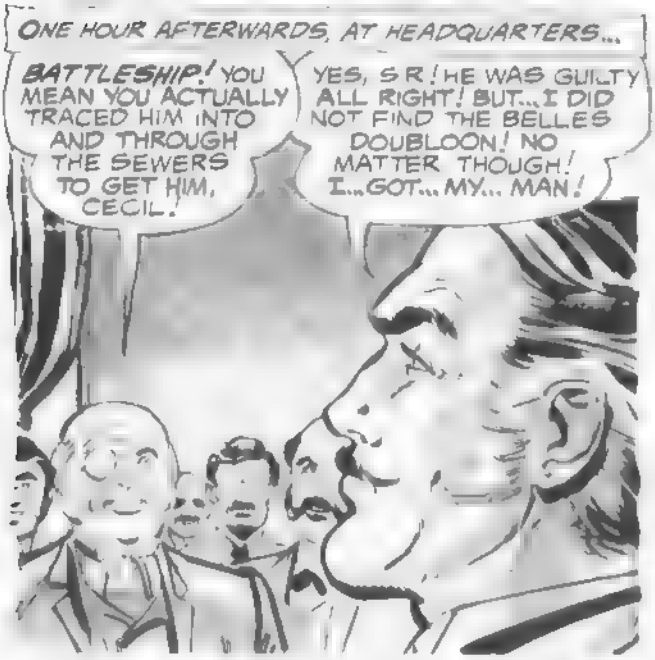
I SEE YOU, LES. THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE!
NO! NO! NO!

NO USE, LES... NO USE... NO USE!
...I'LL DOUBLE-TRACK... HE WON'T FOLLOW ME HERE...

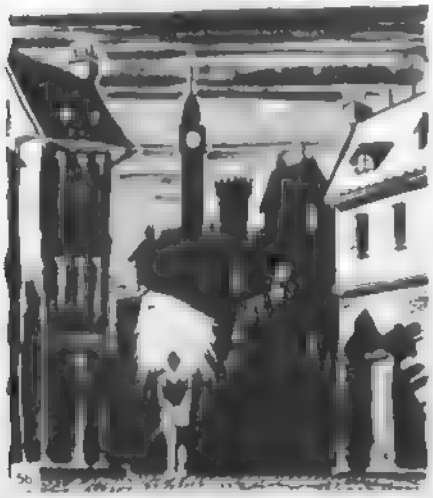
THIS IS MY LAST DAY, LES MISERABLES! MY LAST DAY ON THE FORCE! IT WILL BE MY BEST ONE!

STAY AWAY, JARET! YOU WON'T GET ME! I'D DIE... FIRST!
SPLOTCH

AIIIEIE!
THEN... DIE!


ONE HOUR AFTERWARDS, AT HEADQUARTERS...
BATTLESHIP! YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY TRACED HIM INTO AND THROUGH THE SEWERS TO GET HIM, CECIL!
YES, SIR! HE WAS GUILTY ALL RIGHT! BUT... I DID NOT FIND THE BELLES DOUBLOON! NO MATTER THOUGH! I... GOT... MY... MAN!

SO THEY GAVE CHIEF-INSPECTOR JARET THE GREATEST FAREWELL EVER SEEN IN THE ANNALS OF POLICE ENFORCEMENT...
GOODBYE, CECIL, THIS LAST ASSIGNMENT WAS A CROWNING GLORY... TO A BLOODY BRILLIANT CAREER WITH US!


AND WHEN ALL THE CROWDS AND OFFICIALS HAD DEPARTED, A SOLITARY FIGURE WALKED THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS WHISTLING AND THINKING...

I ALWAYS WANTED LES MISERABLES! I COULD NEVER PIN ANYTHING ON HIM, THOUGH! GOOD THING... I STOLE THE... BELLES DOUBLOON!
NOTE: 2 YEARS LATER JARET WAS ARRESTED WHEN HE TRIED TO SELL THE DOUBLOON TO A DEALER WHO WAS A FORMER POLICEMAN

I COULD BLAME LES MISERABLES FOR THE THEFT! I... ALWAYS... GET MY MAN! AH, BLOODY GOOD SHOW, WHAT?
THE END

THE SUPERNATURAL
FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, PEOPLE HAVE THRILLED TO THE SUPERNATURAL -- TO TALES OF STRANGE SPECTERS WHO HAVE HAUNTED COUNTLESS MIDNIGHTS! BUT HERE'S SOMETHING NEW... SOMETHING DIFFERENT! IT'S THE STORY OF... THE HOLLAND HAUNT!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE HAND OF FATE, THAT LETTER WHICH CAUGHT UP WITH PETER VAN NOSTRAND IN LONDON...
IT'S FROM MY UNCLE HENDRIK IN NEW YORK, BRIAN... GOOD GRIEF IT'S POSTMARK OVER SIX MONTHS AGO!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NEVER STAYING PUT IN ONE PLACE PETE!
HMMM...MAYBE I'LL START SETTLING DOWN NOW! MY UNCLE'S GETTING OLD AND WANTS ME TO COME HOME!! I'LL WRITE HIM THAT I'M ON MY WAY!
BACK HOME...PETE COULDN'T EXPLAIN THE STRANGE PREMONITION OF IMPENDING DISASTER WHICH HAUNTED HIM...
I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED... IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO SEE UNCLE AT THE PIER!
PETER DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HIS PREMONITION WAS COMING TRUE...
BUT THERE WAS NO UNCLE TO MEET HIM...
THAT'S HIM...I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM HIS PICTURE! YOU HEAD FOR THE HOUSE, ANNA...I'LL TAKE CARE OF COUSIN PETER!
GUESS MY UNCLE'S TOO OLD TO MEET SHIPS! I'D BETTER TAKE A TAXI TO HIS PLACE!
EXIT
NO THERE WAS NOTHING TO WARN HIM NOW... NOTHING BUT A STRANGE LITTLE MAN WHO APPEARED MIRACULOUSLY...IN NICK OF TIME!
WHAT TH-!

WHEW! IF YOU HADN'T PULLED ME OUT OF THE WAY, I'D.. HEY! WHERE'D THAT LITTLE GUY GO? HE WAS JUST HERE A SECOND AGO!
WELL NO USE WORRYING ABOUT HIM... NOW FOR A CAB.. NOT THAT THERE'S MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING ONE WITH THAT CROWD WAITING!
CAB
JUST THEN...
WELL I'LL BE...! CABBIE, IF IT WASN'T CRAZY, I'D SAY THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED MY LIFE A FEW MINUTES AGO... BUT FORGET IT! JUST TAKE ME TO 210 BANK STREET!
BUT THE DRIVER SCARCELY SEEMED TO LISTEN! WITH A ROAR, THE CAR WAS OFF, IGNORING SIGNALS, MAGICALLY AVOIDING COLLISIONS...
STOP DRIVER! ARE YOU NUTS?
BUT STILL THE STRANGE, HURTLING RACE CONTINUE.. ONLY TO PAUSE WHEN...
STOP, I TELL YOU.. YOU'RE HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!
BUT.. BUT WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE... TO A GRAVEYARD?

NO ANSWER! NOTHING BUT THE PALLID BEAM OF THE SPOTLIGHT..ON A TOMBSTONE!
HENDRIK ONNOSTRAND
IT'S UNCLE HENDRIK... DEAD! BUT HOW..
THEN... WITH A LURCH, THE STRANGE TAXI SWINGS INTO MOTION, HEADING BACK.. AT BLINDING SPEED!
DID THE STRANGE LITTLE CABBIE HEAR FOR HE GAVE NO ANSWER...AND AS IF BY SOME EERIE MAGIC, THEY REACHED THEIR DESTINATION!
WAIT! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY UNCLE? WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
UNCLE HENDRIK'S HOUSE! BUT SECOND AGO, WE WERE BACK THERE...IN THE CEMETERY!
AND FROM WITHIN THE HOUSE...
THERE HE GOES.. AND THE TAXI'S FADING AWAY DISAPPEARING! IT'S INCREDIBLE!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO.. HE'S HERE! OH, IF YOU'D ONLY GOTTEN RID OF HIM BACK AT THE PIER, ARNOLD!
IT WAS TOUGH LUCK, BUT IT'LL BE EASIER HERE!... LISTEN! WE'LL WELCOME HIM AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WILL... DON'T WORRY... HE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER!

YOU WISHED TO SEE ..GREAT SCOTT! YOU'RE PETER.. PETER VAN NOSTRAND!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHO ARE YOU?
I'M YOUR COUSIN ARNOLD.. AND THAT'S ANNA MY WIFE! THIS IS A SURPRISE!
PETER! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.. NOBODY'S HEARD FROM YOU FOR YEARS!
BUT I WROTE UNCLE HENDRIK I WAS COMING! OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD DIED THEN ... BUT MY LETTER MUST'VE ARRIVED!
I'M AFRAID IT DIDN'T AND WE WOULD'VE KNOWN. SINCE WE WERE LOOKING AFTER THE OLD MAN WHEN THE END CAME! WE STAYED ON HERE, ASSUMING THIS WAS OUR HOUSE ...UNTIL NOW!
I DON'T GET IT! WHOSE HOUSE IS IT, THEN?
OF COURSE .. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WILL! UNCLE HENDRIK LEFT EVERYTHING TO YOU!
HMMM... THAT IS NEWS!
FOR YEARS THE LAWYERS SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU, AND ASSUMED YOU WERE DEAD! MATTER OF FACT, IN TWO MONTHS YOU'D BEEN DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD AND THE PROPERTY WOULD'VE GONE TO THE NEXT IN LINE ...ME!
SO YOU OWN A HOUSE NOW.. COUSIN! WE'LL GO SEE THE LAWYERS IN THE MORNING AND ARRANGE FOR IT!
SORT OF TOUGH FOR YOU .. ME SHOWING UP, HUH? MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED MISSING!

NOTHING OF THE SORT! IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU TURN UP LIKE THIS!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO ENJOY THIS OLD DUTCH HOUSE!
PETER BEGAN TO TELL HIS STORY... LITTLE KNOWING THE STRANGE SPECTER HIS WORDS WERE SUMMONING...
ARNOLD... THE WINDOW!
CONFOUND IT, I COULD'VE SWORN THAT WINDOW WAS CLOSE!
AS THEY PROCEEDED... UNAWARE OF THEIR WEIRD VISITOR...
YOU WERE SAYING, PETE?
OH, YES! WELL OF COURSE NOBODY BELIEVES IN GHOSTS, BUT...
WHA— UNCLE HENDRIK PICTURE... IT MUST HAVE COME LOOSE!
WHEN A DEAD MAN'S PICTURE FALLS... IT WAS ENOUGH TO DRIVE FROM MIND THE STORY PETE HAD PLANNED TO TELL...
SORRY FOR THIS RECEPTION! UNCLE HENDRIK ALWAYS SAID THIS HOUSE WAS HAUNTED... AND MAYBE IT IS! HA-HA! WELL... MIGHT AS WELL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
HAVE A NICE REST, PETER... A NICE, LONG REST!
I'M SURE I WILL GOOD NIGHT!

PETER PREPARES FOR BED! BUT WHAT STRANGE REASON TURNS HIS ATTENTION TOWARDS THE FIREPLACE!

HMM... A PARTIALLY-BURNED ENVELOPE! AN ENGLISH STAMP AND POSTMARKED LONDON... *ON THE VERY DAY I WROTE TO UNCLE HENDRIK!* ARNOLD SAID MY LETTER HAD NEVER ARRIVED... *BUT THIS MAKES ME WONDER!*

LATER...

HE'S ASLEEP! IT WOULD BE EASY NOW...

NOT YET, ANNA ... I'VE BEEN THINKING! HOW DID PETER KNOW UNCLE WAS DEAD... PERHAPS HE KNOWS WHERE THOSE OLD DOCUMENTS ARE!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS... WE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THEM OURSELVES IF OLD HENDRIK HADN'T BABBLED IN HIS DELIRIUM! WE'VE GOT TO FINISH PETER NOW, ARNOLD!

ALL RIGHT... BUT LET'S WAIT A COUPLE OF HOURS AND SEE IF PETER ***DOES*** KNOW WHERE THOSE PAPERS ARE, HE MAY ATTEMPT TO GET THEM TONIGHT!

MEANWHILE, WITHIN... HOVERING OVER THE SLEEPING MAN... THE EERIE GHOST SMILED...

AND IN PETER'S SLEEP-SHROUDED MIND, AN ODD DREAM FORMED...

IT IS A BARGAIN, MYNHEER! HERE IS THE GOLD... AND THE LAND IS MINE!

YOU NOW OWN A SECTION OF ***NEW AMSTERDAM,*** PETER!

NOW TO PUT THESE DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE... AND I KNOW THE VERY SPOT! ***THE SECRET COMPARTMENT!***

THE WEIRD DREAM PROCEEDED ...AND PETER SAW THE LITTLE MAN ENTER A HOUSE, APPROACH THE WALL NEAR AN ORNATE BUST! A TOUCH OF HIS FINGER ...AND A CONCEALED DRAWER SLID OPEN!
GOOD GOSH! GUESS IT WAS A DREAM..BUT IT WAS SO VIVID!
BUT I DON'T GET IT! HOW COME THAT LITTLE MAN IN MY DREAM WAS THE IMAGE OF THE GUY WHO SAVED MY LIFE?
THAT BUST IN THE DREAM, SEEMS TO ME I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE HALL DOWNSTAIRS!
I'M POWERLESS.. BEFORE A STRANGE COMPULSION! I'VE GOT TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND SEE!
THERE HE GOES! I TOLD YOU HE KNOWS SOMETHING!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...IT'S THE SAME ONE AS IN MY DREAM! LET'S SEE...THE LITTLE DUTCHMAN PRESSED THE MOULDING ABOUT HERE...
WOW! THERE IS A HIDDEN DRAWER...WITH SOMETHING INSIDE IT!

LET'S SEE...WOW! IT'S AN OLD DEED TO PROPERTY AT THE FOOT OF OLD NEW AMSTERDAM,, PRESENT DAY MANHATTAN! WHY IT MUST BE WORTH MILLIONS!
YOU'RE RIGHT PETER-IT IS! AND HOW LUCKY THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND IT!
ARNOLD! BUT WHAT'S WITH THE GUN?
IT'S POINTED RIGHT WHERE I WANT IT! WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR THOSE PAPERS! HAND THEM OVER!
WHY SHOULD I...THEY BELONG TO ME? DIDN'T YOU TELL ME UNCLE HENDRIK HAD LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME?
YES, BUT NOBODY KNOWS YOU'VE RETURNED,,, YOU'LL BE DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD WITHIN TWO MONTHS,,, AND I'LL OWN EVERYTHING! THEY'LL NEVER FIND YOUR BODY PETER!
DO YOU THINK I'D LET YOU STAND BETWEEN ME AND A FORTUNE!
I'D BET THAT YOU KILLED UNCLE!
MEANWHILE A SPECTER LISTEN!
CALL IT HELPING ALONG THE PROCESS OF OLD AGE BY AN OVERDOSE OF MEDICINE!
PETER DIDN'T STOP TO SPECULATE ON THE SWORD DROPPED INTO HIS HAND, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE ARMED NOW, HE SWUNG INTO ACTION!
OKAY, BUDDY! HERE IT COMES!

ARGH!
WHAM!
AND AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT...
YOU TWO ARE UNDER ARREST, WE'VE HEARD YOU CONFESS TO MURDER!
ALONE LATER...
BUT I..I CAN'T UNDERSTAND! HOW'D YOU HAPPEN TO GET HERE ..NOW!
A LITTLE OLD CAB-DRIVER CAME TO THE STATION AND TOLD US THERE WAS TROUBLE HERE! WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME TO HEAR THAT PUNK BRAGGING ABOUT KILLING HIS UNCLE!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! IT'S ALL OVER...I WONDER WHO THAT LITTLE MAN WAS!
AGAIN, AN ODD CUMPULSION... PULLING PETER'S EYES TOWARD THE OLD BUST! AND THERE HE SAW...
THAT FACE... THE SAME AS THE MAN WHO SAVED ME AT THE PIER ...ALSO THE TAXI DRIVER...AND THE OLD DUTCHMAN IN MY DREAM!
AND THAT'S WHO HE WAS.. MY GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER!
THE END
PETER VAN NI
NEW AMSTERDAM
1640

SOME PEOPLE WHO VISIT GRAVES LEAVE FLOWERS.... BUT FOR THIS ONE YOU NEED SOMETHING ALIVE! AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT SURE ABOUT HIM! CARE TO STICK AROUND? HMMM?
COUNT DRACULA
Strange Facts
--THE LAST CORPSE TO ENTER A CEMETARY MUST GUARD THE OTHER GRAVES!... PSST.. THIS CEMETARY WAS ABANDONED IN 1800... HMMM?!
A SPIDER THAT DROPS ON YOUR FACE WILL BRING GOOD LUCK, —THIS MAN BELIEVED, -BUT, HE DIED KNOWN ONLY AS "HARD-LUCK" JOHN.

Strange Facts
ONE MOMENT WHILE I PLUNGE THIS PIN INTO THE WAX IMAGE...AH, THERE,—IT'S DONE!
OF COURSE, 5000 MILES AWAY, A MAN WILL CRINGE WITH PAIN! BUT, THAT IS VOODOO! NOW WELCOME TO VOODOO SUPERSTITIONS ...DID YOU KNOW--
THAT THE FIRST CORPSE LAID IN A NEW CHURCHYARD, IS CLAIMED BY THE DEVIL! (...ER-- BE MY GUEST,—YOU FIRST!)
TO DREAM OF A LIZARD, MEANS THAT YOU HAVE A SECRET ENEMY!
IF A FLY FALLS INTO A GLASS FROM WHICH YOU ARE DRINKING, IT IS AN OMEN OF PROSPERITY (AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS A BARFLYS TRICK TO GET A FREE ONE!)